**Non-Completion of Research Project**

*274. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 44 in-house research projects of Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, during a period of five years from 1st April, 1995 to 31st March, 2000, only 12 projects could be completed;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for their non-completion; and

(c) the details of remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai has successfully completed 12 projects out of 44 in-house projects and their achievements are available in various reports. The research and teaching programmes of CIFE were prioritized and some of the projects with related objectives were re-grouped with a view to pooling the resources and avoid duplication. Rest of the projects are in operation. The in-house research projects are not time-bound but are regularly reviewed by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and the Staff Research Council (SRC) and based on their recommendations the research projects are re-oriented.

**Comparative Literacy Rate**

* 275 SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the male literacy rate in a small country like Sri Lanka is 93 per cent, the female literacy rate is 87 per cent and Bangladesh also has achieved considerable progress in literacy;

(b) if so, what are the comparative figures of literacy rate in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh; and

(c) what steps are being taken to increase literacy rate among males and females, especially when the theme of family planning lies on the literacy of women ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) As per the UNESCO 1999 Statistical Year Book, the male and female literacy rate in Sri Lanka is 94.5 per cent and 88.9 per cent respectively. In Bangladesh, the male literacy rate is 51.7 per cent and the female literacy rate is 29.5 per cent.

(b) The comparative figures of literacy rate in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are as follows :—

| Country | Literacy Rate 15 +(%) | | | Population (in millions) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Male | Female | |
| *INDIA | 61.00 | 74.00 | 47.00 | 1027 |
| SRI LANKA | 91.6 | 94.5 | 88.9 | 18 |
| BANGLADESH | 40.8 | 51.7 | 29.5 | 124 |

*Figures for India are estimated literacy rates on the basis of National Family Health Survey 1998-99 as on 2001.

The Census 2001 provisional reports indicate that India has made significant progress in the field of literacy during the decade since the last Census in 1991. The literacy rate in 2001 has been recorded at 65.38% as against 52.21% in 1991. The 13.17 percentage points increase in the literacy rate during the period is the highest increase in any decade. Out of 858 million people in 7+ age group, 562 million are now literate out of which 225 million are women. For the first time, there is a decline in absolute number of illiterates by 32.8 million. The gap in male- female literacy rates has come down from 24.8 percentage points in 1991 to 21.7 percentage points in 2001. The rural-urban gap has reduced from 28.39 percentage points in 1991 to 20.85 percentage points in 2001. There has been an increase in the female literacy rate by 15.96 percentage points in rural areas as against 8.94 percentage points in urban areas.

(c) The Government has adopted the following strategies to improve the female literacy in the country :

* National Literacy Mission;

* Mahila Samakhya Programme;

* Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

National Literacy Mission seeks to achieve full literacy *i.e.* sustainable threshold level of 75% by 2005 by imparting functional literacy to non-literates in 15—35 age group. In order to achieve this objective, National Literacy Mission implements literacy programmes in three phases *viz.* Total Literacy Campaign, Post Literacy Programme and Continuing Education Programmes.

Mahila Samakhya Programme is being implemented in 60 districts of 10 States which builds capacities among group of women and contributes towards

empowerment of women in rural areas, particularly from socially and economically marginalized groups.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is an effort to universalize elementary education by community-ownership of the school system. The objective of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are as follows:

- All Children in school, Education Guarantee Centre, Alternate School, 'Back-to-School' camp by 2003
- All children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007
- All children complete eight years of elementary schooling by 2010
- Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life
- Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010
- Universal retention by 2010

Education of girls is the primary focus under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. It recognizes the need for special efforts to bring the out of school-girls especially from disadvantaged sections to schools. It also calls for involving women through participatory process in the effective management of schools. Some of the steps undertaken by the States under SSA are:-

(i) Setting up special models of Alternate Schools exclusively for girls.

(ii) Using Village Education Committees, Mother Teacher Associations and Women's Groups to follow up issues for girls' education.

(iii) Special efforts for improvement of access and enrolment, retention and achievement of girls.

**Mechanism for GM Crop Trials**

*276. SHRI ABANI ROY :

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "India needs mechanism to monitor GM crop trials", reported in the Times of India dated 22nd October,2001;